Vol. 1. FEBRUARY, 1887. No. 2.

THE

Halifax Philatelist.

PUBLISHED BY

The Halifax Philatelic Company,

LOCK BOX 219 · · · HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.

PRINTED BY THEAKSTON & CO., HALIFAX, N. S.

CHARLES MOODY

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Highly polished with ball bearings. Lamp and bell complete.

Write for full particulars.

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A large assortment of Mexican, Central and South American Postage Stamps wanted to exchange for stamps of Nova Scotia etc.

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YPSILANTI, MICH.,

Dealer in Postage and Revenue Stamps. Send for Lists. Approval sheets for good reference.

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343 Sabatis St., Lewiston Maine.

Mention paper.

The Halifax Philatelist.

VOL. I. HALIFAX N. S., FEBRUARY, 1887 No. 2.

WATERMARKS.

BY HENRY HECHLER.

The matter of watermarks in stamps is one of the most important features in the science of philately as it is studied at the present day, and forms a branch that no true philatelist can afford to overlook or fail to give attention to.

In fact it is by the watermarks alone that different issues of many stamps can be distinguished and identified.

I purpose to discuss this matter categorically and if my readers will follow me I trust that I may write what will be a benefit to them, and from which they may learn something more of our beautiful science. I intend in the course of my remarks to show by illustrations how watermarks frequently vary, or rather, fix the values of different issues of stamps that are otherwise exactly similar, giving values only where a marked variation exists.

Antigua.—The first issue (1862) of this island bears the watermark of a star. In 1873 the same die was used but the watermark was changed to C C and a crown. Of course in this instance the watermark is an unfailing guide to determine to what issue a given stamp of that colony belongs, as the difference in colors is so slight as to easily lead to doubt. The 1d of the first issue is worth from 6d to 1s whereas that of the second is valued only at 2d to 3d. In 1880 a new die, similar to those of most of the other West Indian colonies, was introduced The watermark of these is C A and crown.

Argentine Republic.—A peculiarity in the stamps of this country is that the issue of 1864 only had a watermark which consisted of the letters A R as a monogram. The series of this issue consists of three viz;—5c, 10c, and 15c. The first two are worth about 12cts. each and the latter 24cts. A few of this issue also appeared without watermarks and imperforate of which some of the 5c, have been sold as high as $5 each. This shows strongly how important the presence or absence of a watermark sometimes is. It is to be noted that the regular issue of the stamps bearing the monogram A. R as noted above were so printed that the letters appeared in reverse when looked at from the back of the stamp By some error a small portion of these stamps were printed on the wrong side of the sheet so that, when turned over the monogram read "R A" and was also upside down. These are very rare and, therefore, are naturally much more valuable than the "regulars."

Bahamas – Of the first issue of this group of islands the 1d, was im-

perforate and without watermark. It is extremely rare and is valued at25s. The issue of 1861 was exactly the same except that it was perforate. It also had no watermark. The 1d of this issue is variously valued at from 3 to 4s, each The 4d, and 6d, have a value of 3s. 6d. to 5s. each. The 1862 issue appears to be perforate and has the watermark C C and a crown. The 1d, 4d, 6d, and 1s, are valued from 3d to 9d each—showing a marked falling off in the values from the earlier issues. The above quotations are all for used stamps. In 1882 the perforation and type were unchanged, but the watermark became C A and a crown. There are three denominations of this issue —1d. 4d, and 1s. The first named is worth 2s, and the other two from 2s to 3s each—all unused In 1885 a new die was introduced but the watermark—C A and a crown—was retained.

Barbados.—The first issue was in 1852. It is on blue paper, imperforate and bore no watermark. They are quoted at from 2s 6d to 3s 6d. In the following year the color of the paper was changed to white and quoted values decrease to from 2s 6d to 2s each. From 1856 to 1860 the same type remained in use but the stamps were perforate. In the latter year and till 1864 the stamps bore the watermark of a star. A new type and watermark of C A and a crown were introduced in 1882

Bermuda.—A series of stamps which bore the watermark of C C and a crown was introduced in 1865. In this series we find some instances in which the watermark on the ½d brown is in reverse. Such "errors" are valued at 2s 6d apiece. The colors were changed in 1884 and the watermark became C A and a crown.

British Guiana had its first stamps with watermarks of C C and a crown in 1876. In 1882, owing to the supply of stamps of the smaller denominations running short, a large variety of provisionals was introduced. Among these that are worthy of note were those that were not struck from a cut but that were set up with ordinary type. These were the 1c black on red and 2c black on yellow. Some of them bore the cut of a ship and others of a brig in the centre. To guard against forgery the government had the word "Specimen" perforated diagonally across their centre. These were superseded in the same year by a reissue of the type of 1876 but the new stamps bore the watermark of C A and a crown.

British Honduras.—The first issue consisting of 1d, 6d and 1s made their appearance in 1865. They are without watermark and are valued, used, at from 6d to 3s 6d. In 1872 a 3d and a 4d were added to the above and the entire set received the watermark of C C and a crown. In 1882 new colors were adopted for the stamps and the watermark was changed to C A and a crown The old color of the 1d was blue and it was changed to rose, but before this change was effected some of the 1d stamps were struck in blue on the paper with the new watermark. These are rare and rank with those of the first issue as to value.

(To be continued.)

S. P. M.

BY THEO. LARSEN.

The question as to whether the French Colonies' stamps surcharged S. P. M. originated through private speculation, or were duly ordered by the postal authorities to be surcharged, seems by this time to be pretty well settled in the philatelic world. Their genuineness being established, which by the way has taken a long time to decide, I thought it would not be amiss to give your readers a little information concerning the subject, having made the different varieties of them a special study.

In the latter part of 1884 we find a scarcity of the smaller denominations of the stamps of the French Colonies, and consequently it was thought expedient to have some of the larger values surcharged in order to tide the panic over, and accordingly we find in January 1885, the first surcharged stamps "poping up serenely." We beho d the regular 2 centimes surcharged with a large 5 in two varities, viz: some with the 5 upside down and others with it in regular position. The numbers surcharged of this variety being according to *Le Timbre Poste* 300. Now, before proceeding further we will just take a few moments for the consideration of these. We will suppose that out of the 300 surcharged 100 being destroyed and lost through the mails, which leaves a balance of 200 for the collectors in the world to grapple for; now out of these 200 to my personal knowledge 50 at least are in possession of parties in Halifax, thus the absurdity is at once apparent when we read in French and German philatelic papers, advertisements offering these varities, not on'y at a sma l price, but (think of the cheek) also by the dozen, and I must say that it serves collectors right to al ow themselves to be gulled by unprincipled vendors, when a single thought will show that they can be nothing but simple frauds, and should never have a place in any collection kept by gent'emen of principle. As these 300 would not satisfy the cravings of correspondents, we find next a batch of 3600 appearing, this time it being the 1 franc surcharged with 25. Of this lot we a'so find two varieties, the difference being in the surcharge, one with b'ock letters, the other with italics, the variety with the b'ock letters shows the 25 in vertical position with the S P M upside down, This last lot appeared early in March 1885. With regard to this last variety, although quite a number were issued, somehow or other they are hard to obtain genuine, and we wou'd infer that either they have slipped out of existance, or are kept in the shade by some speculator until the "times are better" and then we will hear of them at a fancy figure no doubt.

To be continued.

Messrs S L Bucken and Co. send us a catalogue of an auction sale of stamps, which takes place this month at their rooms at N. York. There are some fine specimens to be sold, and collectors will have a good chance to complete their sets of U. S. Dept. and envelope stamps.

The Halifax Philatelist.

Published monthly,

IN THE INTERESTS OF STAMP COLLECTORS.

VOL. I. FEBRUARY 1887. No. 2.

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THE HALIFAX PHILATELIC CO.,
Editors & Publishers.
Box 219 Halifax, N. S.

AGENTS.

G. H. Richmond, 5 Beekam St., N. Y.
H. H. Carvel, Moncton, N. B.

Here we are again. Once more to the front with this our second number! We owe an apology to our patrons for not appearing sharp on time on the first of the year, but it was not our fault, as our printer was so over-rushed with work that it was impossible to get our paper out earlier than we did, however we will always be on hand hereafter about the 18th. of each month, when we hope to be able to fully repay all who favor us with their subscriptions. We are glad to be able to disappoint a few "Cranks" who said we would never make a second appearance, which we have done, and will continue to do for some time yet. No one need be afraid to trust us with their subscriptions, for as we have advertised to issue twelve numbers in the year, you may rest assured that you will receive that number; but we cannot go on and make the Halifax Philatelist such a success as we would like to do, if we do not obtain a sufficient amount of patronage in the way of subscriptions. Do not hold off with your subscription for two or three months, because we cannot afford to be forever sending you sample copies; if after this month you do not send in your subscriptions we will conclude that you do not want our paper, and will discontinue sending it.

We can, we think, without bragging, claim a place among the best philatelic papers in America, for although not as large as some our reading matter is as good as any, and a great deal better than a good many of the journals that are received by us. We intend always to give a large space to reading matter, and not crowd it out by advertisements,

To advertisers we would recommend ourselves, both on account of our extremely low rates, and our rapidly increasing circulation. We intend next month if possible to add another four pages especially for advertising matter. Almost all those who advertised in the first number have continued with us. This fact speaks for itself as an advertising medium. We would however be pleased to have a few more good standing ads., and as our prices cannot always remain at the present low figure now is the time to send them along.

Last month our *Exchange Notes* were crowded out on account of an over abundance of other reading matter.

The Philatelists of Halifax are, as

the saying is, *Slow* but *sure*, they are *sure* a Philatelic Society would be a very good thing to have here, but they are pretty *slow* in forming one, they are also rather *slow* in sending along their sub-criptions, but we are *sure* they only want reminding of the fact, to *ensure* us quite a number of subscribers.

We have been very fortunate this month in securing an article from Mr. Henry Hechler, of this city. Mr. Hechler is one of the best philatelic writers in America, but he finds but little time in which to write, as his large business engrosses all his time. Mr. Hechler has now been a dealer for twelve years and a collector since 1858; his collection is one of the most perfect in existance, and the varieties which he always has in stock are not to be obtained from many other dealers. In 1885 he captained a company of the Halifax Battalion which went to the North West to help quell the Reil Rebellion; he also served in the Franco-German war, for both of which events he received medals. Latterly he has gone into the coin as well as the stamp business, in which we wish him every success.

We have decided to abandon the idea of having a drawing, because as we have a large number of subscribers and as they all want the prize, we feel that too many of them will be dissapointed at not receiving anything, so in place of it we will offer a splendid premium to every subscriber, including those who have already subscribed. A full list of premiums will appear in next number. In order to give more room to reading matter of more interest the New Issues will be discontinued, as they are the same in almost every philatelic paper.

We would advise all who receive this number to read Mr. Hechler's article on the different watermarks of stamps. It is a first class article and cannot help throwing much light on the subject as Mr. Hechler has made it a special study.

As to the genuineness of the Macao stamps of which doubt has lately existed, we are able to inform our readers that we have received used specimens direct from that country. They were issued in 1884.

We would just mention here for the benefit of advertisers that we do not keep sending copies of our paper to the same parties time after time, in the hope of obtaining their subscriptions, but as we have a large list of addresses, we send very many copies around to new ones each issue, and to collectors and others we would also say that if you want to receive the next and following numbers of the *Halifax Philatelist* you had better subscribe right now. You will obtain as much if not more *original* reading in it as in any other philatelic paper in America.

Exchanges.

We are very much pleased with the appearance of the January number of *The Stamp*, it has improved wonderfully in the last few months, Philately must be rushing in Denver.

The Curiosity World has at last reached us, we must say it is a fine paper, containing lots of very interesting reading matter. Friend Hubbard shows himself to be a very energetic publisher.

Scott & Co's *Coin Collectors' Journal* has just been received and contains a lot of news of interest to coin collectors.

The fourth number of the *Collectors' Review* is a nice little four-page paper. For a small paper it has quite a lot of interesting news.

The *Cumberland Collector* for January comes to us in very good form, and is of a much better appearance than formerly. We hope to see it advance in the same proportion in the future as it has done in the past.

Our thanks are again due to Sec'y Bradt for a copy of the *American Philatelist*, the organ of the A.P.A. it is rather small, but good, and will, we are sure, improve in time—especially as it is in such good hands. we wish it and the Association all the success possible.

The January of *The Stamp World* is a very respectable looking Journal it appears in a new cover and has the name changed to *The Stamp World and Wise and Otherwise.* It is one of the very best of our exchanges, and we are always glad to see it. Come often !

Other papers received, *The Philatelic Tribune, The Monthly Advertiser, The Philatelic Monthly, The Peerless Review, The Collectors' Review,* and several others.

ODD NOTES.

A number of Ferry Tokens have lately come to light, but are still as great a rarity as ever.

The new Gibralter stamps are out, and are of the same type as the other British Colonies. The used surcharges will soon become pretty rare.

A rather ancient epistle was the other day resurrected from an old trunk, by Mr. A. Dickson, of Antigonishe, N. S., it was dated December 9th, 1795, and was written by the Rev. D. Cock, of Truro, and addressed to his son Capt. W. Cock, of the ship "Katharine," of Pictou, about to sail to London.

The new English stamps in honor of the Jubilee of Queen Victoria are to hand. They are rather handsome and are all of different types. The general feature seems to be, the head of Queen in small circle at top, with wreath on arms, and number below.

Mr. Geo. H. Richmond, will issue this month, a work on which he has been some time engaged *The American Press Directory.* It will be the most complete of its kind ever issued, and will be mailed free to every dealer in America.

We have in our possession an oddity, a very few of which are known to be in existance, it being a three cent of the present issue of Canada, bnt instead of being red, it is of a very dark brown shade, almost black, it is genuine, and unused, as it was purchased among others at the Post Office. A brown 2 ct. and a blue five cent registration are also known to be held by parties here.

A gentleman handed us a number of stamps the other day, which had come off of letters that had been in the mail of the *S. S. Oregon*, and had been in the salt water several months The color of the English stamps remained intact, but the French were all more or less changed.

Exchange Notes.

Under this heading we will insert notices of Exchange from subscribers only. All notices must be in by 5th of any month to insure insertion in that months issue. The right to reject all exchanges reserved.

Coins of Nova Scotia, P.E.I. Nfld. and N.B., and foreign, in exchange for foreign coins not in collection.

D. A. KING, Halifax, N.S.

Exchange desired with collectors in all parts of the world. I have many rare U. S. Stamps to exchange. I also have curiosities to exchange for stamps or coins.

E. N. CARTER, Box 314, Delevan, Wis.

Good exchange given for the following U. S. stamps. 1851—10c. 1857—12. 24. 30. 90c. 1861—90c. 1869—10. 12. 15. 30. 90c. Agriculture 2c 10 to 30c. Executive 1 to 10c. State 2. 24. 30c. Navy 1 2. 7 to 90c. Treasury 24c. Justice 1 to 90c. Interior 2. 10. 12. 15. 90c. P. O. 10. 15. 30. 90c. War 7. 90c.

F. C. KAYE, Halifax, N. S.

Exchange desired with advanced collectors I especially want the 6d. Canada perf, and unperf, for which I will give good exchange.

E. F. SMITH,
89 Spring Garden Rd Halifax, N. S

Wanted Coins of Canada and other countries not in my collection for which good exchange will be given.

J. M. WOOD, Halifax. N. S,

Good exchange given for foreign stamps or any of the following U. S. due 50c. Executive any. Justice any, (excepting 3 and 6) Navy 1, 7, 10, 15, 24, 30, and 90c., Post Office 1 and 10 State 30 and 90c. Treasury 24c.

E A. SMITH,
58 Robie St., Halifax, N.S.

A good assortment of duplicates to exchange for others not in my collection

J. WILLIS CALDWELL
133 Spring Garden Rd. Halifax, N. S

Wanted the following stamp papers for which I will give cash or good stamps.

The Exchange (Adrean) No. 9, Our Am. youth, vol. 1, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10. Vol 2, Nos 4 and 6; New Eng. Phil. vol. 1 Nos. 5, 7, 8. Carson, Phil. vol. 1 No 3. Keystone. S. and C. Gazette, vol. 1 No. 9, vol 2, Nos. 18 and 20.; Stamp World vol. 1. all. Empire City, Phil. vol. 1, Nos. 1, 4, 5, 6. The National Phil. vol. 1, Nos. 4, 5, 6. 7, 8. 9, 10 11 and 12; Quaker City Phil. vol. 1, Nos. 5, 7, 8; Youths Ledger vol. 1 No. 2. and also others too numerous to mention. Send lists of what you have Address,

A. B. S DEWOLF
Box 219. Halifax, N. S

Correspondence.

Under this head will be inserted free, to subscribers only, letters of inquiry and other correspondence.

We however reserve the right to reject any communication.

Editor Halifax Philatelist

Dear Sir,

I have in my possession some old letters, a description of which may interest the readers of your paper. I wish also to get more information about them. One was sent from Prince Edward Island to Guysborough, on which are two post marks, Post Office, P. E. Island in large capital letters, in a circle with an outer and inner circular frame, leaving a blank centre, in which was placed the date, (26 Feb. 34) in ink with a pen. The other post mark is Halifax, N. S. (Mar 10 1834). At the right side the postage is marked thus :

4
11

1·3
2

1·5

The currency used then was £. s. d. so the postage on the letter was 1s. 5d. for a distance of about 100 miles. Why are the 11d and 2d added? Was the rate charged at different offices as the letter advanced to its destination? Another was mailed at Macan and had the following post marks, Cumberland N. S and Pictou N. S. It would appear from this that only post marks of the counties were used. The postage on this was 1s. 2d. marked, in the same as the other except different figures.

8
4

1·0
2

1·2

If any of your readers can tell why the figures were put in this way I will be thankful for the information.

HARRISON L. HART.

Black List.

We are sorry to say that we do not find much trouble in getting matter to fill up under this heading.

Messrs. J. C. Jay & Co. sent us the names of the following who have defrauded them :

J. R. Wilson, Oshkosh, Wis.
C. B. Harrington, Chicago, Ill.
Burr Lakin, Topeka, Kans.
F. Dean, St. Paul, Minn.
A. Desberger, St. Louis, Mo.
H. C. Deming, South Cornish, N H
B. O. Kellings, Lynchburg, Va.
C. E. Schisman, Media, Pa.
N. B. Brehm, Chicago, Ill.
J. C. Stall, Midland, Mich.
A. C. Turner, Burlington, Iowa.
F. W. Thomas, Troy, N. Y.
F. Powers, LeMais, Iowa,
M. L. Hutchinson, Oxford, Neb
J. G. Beyor, Lynn, Mass.
F. E. Marshall, Philadelphia, Pa
F. W. Noyes, Yarmouth, Maine

J. C J. & Co state that they have written to the above a number of letters asking for the return of the stamps sent them, and if they will settle now their names will be removed from above list.

R S. Harris & Co also hand us the following list, some of which have defrauded us as well as R S H & Co., viz :

E. Richardson, 96 Reade St. New York city.

Saml. May, Hobberness School Plymouth, N. H.

C. G. Landon, Jamestown, N. Y.

Chas. E. Neilis, Allentown, Pa.

O H. Howell, jr. 516 High Street, Newark, N. J.

G Hayes, jr. 215 W 12th St. Chicago, Ill.

E. L. French, Wellington, O.

Rex Kenyon, P O Box 57, Chattanooga, Tenn.

F. C. Owings, Olympia, Wash, Ty.

F. B. Elridge, Somerset and Attleboro, Mass.

Miss Zella Armstrong, 725 Chestnut St. Chattanooga, Tenn.

Francis M Welch, Holderness School, Plymouth, N. H.

The following three are debtors to Mr. N. E. Carter of Delevan, Wis, viz :

E. G. Harlow, Lynn Mass.
W. P. Arnold, Shaurick, R. I.
T. Davis, Madison, Wis.

OLD NEWFOUNDLAND STAMPS.

1857 3d. triangular, 10cts, 5d. 20cts.
1863, 4d. 15c., 6d. 20c., 6½d. 25c., 8d. 25c., 1s. 45c. The seven $1.50.
13 var. P. E. Island, including the 1d., 85c.
6 " " 30cts
3 var Newfoundland and 1 Nova Scotia for 12cts.
50 var., including the following: 3 var. Newfoundland, 5c., Nova Scotia, Chili, Bermuda, Danish West Indies, Barbadoes, Trinidad, Guatemala, Argentine Rep. U.S. Columbia, all good stamps, for 25c.
Send 25cts and get a sheet of stamps on approval.

HARRISON L. HART,
71 GOTTINGEN STREET, HALIFAX, N. S.

Our Southern Packet contains 50 used stamps, no duplicates, from South and Central America, such as Argentine, Chili, Costa Rica, Ecudor, Guatamala, Hayti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, etc., etc. These stamps are all in excellent condition, no torn or badly cancelled specimens. A splendid Packet. Price 50cts., postage free.

Our Unused Packet contains 30 unused stamps, selected from the following countries : Angola, Antigua, Argentine, Austria, Azores, Baden, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Chili, Costa Rica, Ecudor, Germany, Greece, Guatamala, Hamburg, Heligoland, Italy, Liberia, Luxemburg, Monaco, Orange Free States, Porto Rico, Philippine Isles, Portugal, Russia, Surinam, Saxony, Timor, U.S. of Columbia & Venezuela. This is a remarkable packet, and has become very popular, contains no duplicates. Price only 50cts.

Without a doubt the **cheapest and best** packet in the market. We deal only in genuine stamps. Money returned if not as represented.

Address, R. S. HARRIS & CO,
108 Summit Sreet, Dubuque, Iowa, U. S. A.

CANADIAN BILL STAMPS.

1 packet, 10 varieties, 5cts. 5 packets 10 var. 25 cts. 10 packets 10 var., 35cts. Return postage must accompany orders. My packets for young collectors are unequalled. W. E. SIMPSON,
Manchester, Nova Scotia

R. S. HARRIS & CO.,

Importers and dealers in U. S. and Foreign

POSTAGE STAMPS.

118 Summit St., Dubuque, Iowa, U.S.A.

Sheets of choice stamps on approval to parties furnishing unquestionable references.

33⅓ p.c. commission allowed.

Prices Low and Stamps warranted genuine.

Our "Key City Packet" is rarely equalled and contains 100 choice stamps, used and unused, from 25 different countries, no torn or badly cancelled. A bargain for collectors, would cost at standard catalogue rates in excess of $5. Price $2

One "Excelsior Packet" contains 50 stamps similar to above, no duplicates. Price $1.

To Collectors purchasing both packets we will give *free* one unused Mexican Official Stamp (no value) and catalogued by Durbin, Scott & Co., at 50cts.

We guarantee satisfaction in the above and will refund amount paid to anyone not satisfied.

We make following Special Offers in sets—

Prices net. Cash with Order. All unused.

Alsace & Lorraine (inverted type)	7 var	$ 20
Baden 1862	6 "	20
" land post	3 "	05
Bavaria 1870	6 "	08
" Return Letter	6 "	06
" Unpaid 1871	2 "	04
Bergedorf	5 "	08
Constantinople	3 "	05
Corea, complete	5 "	70
Danube Steam Navigation Co..	4 "	12
Guatamala Envelope	4 "	25
Hamburg "	7 "	10
Heligoland	21 "	32
" wrappers	3 "	07

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